

ABSTRACT

Language analysis means 21 analyzes texts read from a text DB 11, and generates a sentence structure as the analysis result. Similar-structure generation adjustment means 25 generates, from an input of an input device, a determination item for determining whether or not the structures are identical every type of differences between the sentence structures. Similar-structure determination adjustment means 26 generates, from an input of the input device 6, a determination item for determining whether or not the difference between attribute values is ignored every type of attribute values. Similar-structure generating means 22 generates a similar structure of a partial structure forming the sentence structure obtained by language analysis means 21 in accordance with the determination item from the similar-structure generation adjustment means 25, and sets the generated similar structure as an equivalent class of the partial structure on the generation source. Frequent-similar-pattern detection means 24 ignores the attribute value in accordance with the determination item given from the similar-structure determination adjustment means 26, detects the frequent pattern on the basis of a set of equivalent classes from the similar-structure generating means 22, and outputs the frequent pattern to an output device 3.